

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the opening paragraph of the **Detailed Description Of The Invention**, appearing at page 3, lines 8-17, as follows:

-- The invention disclosed herein is directed to bandwidth allocation for links of a communication network. In particular, the invention provides an improved methodology for determining what link bandwidth is needed for a given traffic bit rate to ensure that the transmission on the link maintains a defined QoS. It is noted that the inventors have authored a companion article to the disclosure of the invention herein, which may be useful as a source of background detail or for additional information respecting the fractional sum difference statistical models used in the development of the invention (as discussed more fully below). That article, entitled "~~A Statistical Model For Allocating Bandwidth To Best-Effort Internet Traffic~~ Bandwidth Estimation For Best-Effort Internet Traffic," Statistical Science, 2004, Vol. 19, No. 3, pp 518-543 [*In Preparation*] is hereby incorporated by reference herein. --